

UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

Acts 20:1-7

Law: remember Sabbath day

Grace: NT point of view

Church: *ekklesia* to call or summon... called out ones

A community based on a special religious idea and established in a special way.

NT--refers to church confined to a particular place

1. Purchased by blood of Christ: Acts 20:28 Eph 5:25
2. Spiritual Gifts are to be used in local church 1 Cor.12-14; Eph. 4
3. Pillar and ground of truth 1 Tim 3:15
4. NT evangelism through local church Acts 15:22
5. Christ considers it own flesh/body Eph 5:29; Col 1:18
6. When sick, what do? James 5:14
7. When get in trouble for taking a spiritual stand where go? Acts 12:5
8. Christ said it is His and He will build it . Matt 16:18 Acts 2:47
9. Accountability and discipline through local church Mt.18:15-17

What about church attendance? 1 John 2:19; Heb 10:24,25

Forsake: to leave behind in some place, to desert, leave. To turn back on.

Assembling: a complete collection; Times when body met together.

Don't turn your back, leave out of life, desert, times when body meeting together.

Forsake: Mat 27:46; Acts 2:27; 2 Cor 4:9 2 Tim 4:10,11,16 Heb 10:25 Heb 13:5

Forsaking has to do with attitude.

Questions to consider: Is the first day of the week the Sabbath? Is Sunday the Christian's Sabbath? Are Christians commanded to keep the Sabbath Day Holy? Can you show me scripture in NT which commands the Christian to keep the Sabbath day holy? Can you show me in NT which commands Christian to rest one day a week? Is Sunday considered anywhere in the NT as the "Christian Sabbath?

Misconceptions:

1. Sunday is Christian's day of rest. Sabbath day given to Israel as a sign of the Mosaic Covenant (Ex. 31:16-17; Ezek. 20:12; Neh. 9:14). 2 Cor. 3:6
When did notion that Sunday the Christian Sabbath begin? Roman Catholics in (733AD-804AD). Statement made that rules of Sabbath transferred to Sunday.
2. God commands Christians to keep the Sabbath. Where in NT?
3. God commanded everyone in the OT to keep the Sabbath. Even under Mosaic Law, Gentiles never commanded to keep Sabbath.

4. All through the OT we find people observing the Sabbath. There is no evidence or record of anyone observing the Sabbath before time of Moses. First time command given concerning keeping Sabbath is when God gave Moses 10 commandments on Mt Sinai in Ex 20:8.

5. Very important to Jews in early church. Church in Jerusalem gave 4 commands to be handed down to Gentile believers:

6. Paul instructed us throughout epistles to keep Sabbath. Paul never warned about not keeping Sabbath day holy. He rebukes Galatians for promoting philosophy that God expects them to place one day over another and that God expects them to sanctify certain days over others.;

Gal. 4:10-11 Much easier to do external than to deal with inner man.

Let no man THEREFORE... Don't allow yourselves to be put under the bondage of the Mosaic law by some well meaning Judaizers!

Wiersbe: The person who judges a believer because that believer is not living under Jewish laws is really judging Jesus Christ. ...It is wrong to call Sunday "the Christian Sabbath" because it is not so designated in the New Testament. It is "the Lord's Day" (Rev. 1:10), the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2), the day that commemorates the victorious resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (John 20:1, 19, 26).... The Law is but a shadow; but in Christ we have the reality, the substance. ... Why go back into shadows when we have the reality in Jesus Christ? This is like trying to hug a shadow when the reality is at hand!

Col 2:16-17 Shadow? Has no reality. The reality is what causes the shadow. Jesus Christ (grace) is the reality to which all shadows point. What was purpose of Sabbath-day shadow? It was to grant rest. Jesus gave real and eternal, once-for-all rest (Heb 4:1-11)?

Do I need to pursue the shadow (a day of rest) or the reality (eternal rest in Christ)?

7. Doesn't it make sense that a believer ought to place Sunday above all other days? What makes sense is that we consistently meet as a local church.

We choose to meet on Sundays--day set apart by early church to celebrate resurrection of Christ.